

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

March 2017



KATHMANDU, NEPAL

9N1MM

MARSHALL D. MORAN

MARCH PROGRAM

INDEXA CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BY RALPH FEDOR, M.D. KØIR

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Howard, W6HDG

JT65 news – The JTDX project

A group of international DX'ers from Russia, Japan, Europe and others are

refining the WSJT-X code of Joe Taylor K1JT specifically for HF DX. Simply called JTDX which stands for "JT modes for DXing", the code optimizes the multipass decoding of weak and QRM'd HF signals which you just wouldn't be able to pull out with WSJT-x v1.7. The project is being led by Igor UA3DJY. Their Yahoo group has a mere 15 members as of today! See <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/JTDX/info>

I did testing this past week and I improved my decoding in both quiet and busy band conditions on various HF bands using version 17.6.1 of JTDX. I've decoded down to -30db. It is not uncommon to now decode three stations on the same frequency. I was even able to improve decodes of weak stations close to the loud, overmodulating stations you commonly encounter (I call them the "red blobs" and the splatter is not simply tied to signal strength). Murphy's law causes a loud nearby station to always appear just as you are about to decode the weak station's confirmation come-back – you know they were there but you got a zero decode. JTDX makes a considerable difference in this scenario but I can't say it is perfect. Apparently the secret sauce is in four or five pass decoders which are based on matched filters. They optimize the decoders during coding by using recorded files of one minute passes in various conditions and they then see how many station they decode by changing various parameters. This makes JTDX quite a bit better on HF. Most of the work is on JT65 modes but they hope to tackle JT9 in the future. Development is intense and new releases come out almost daily. I particularly like that you can call CQ DX by enabling the DX switch in the program. The neatest feature is that you can turn off filters and special hint files and then do a re-decode of the last pass to see if you decoded more stations. It is uncanny.

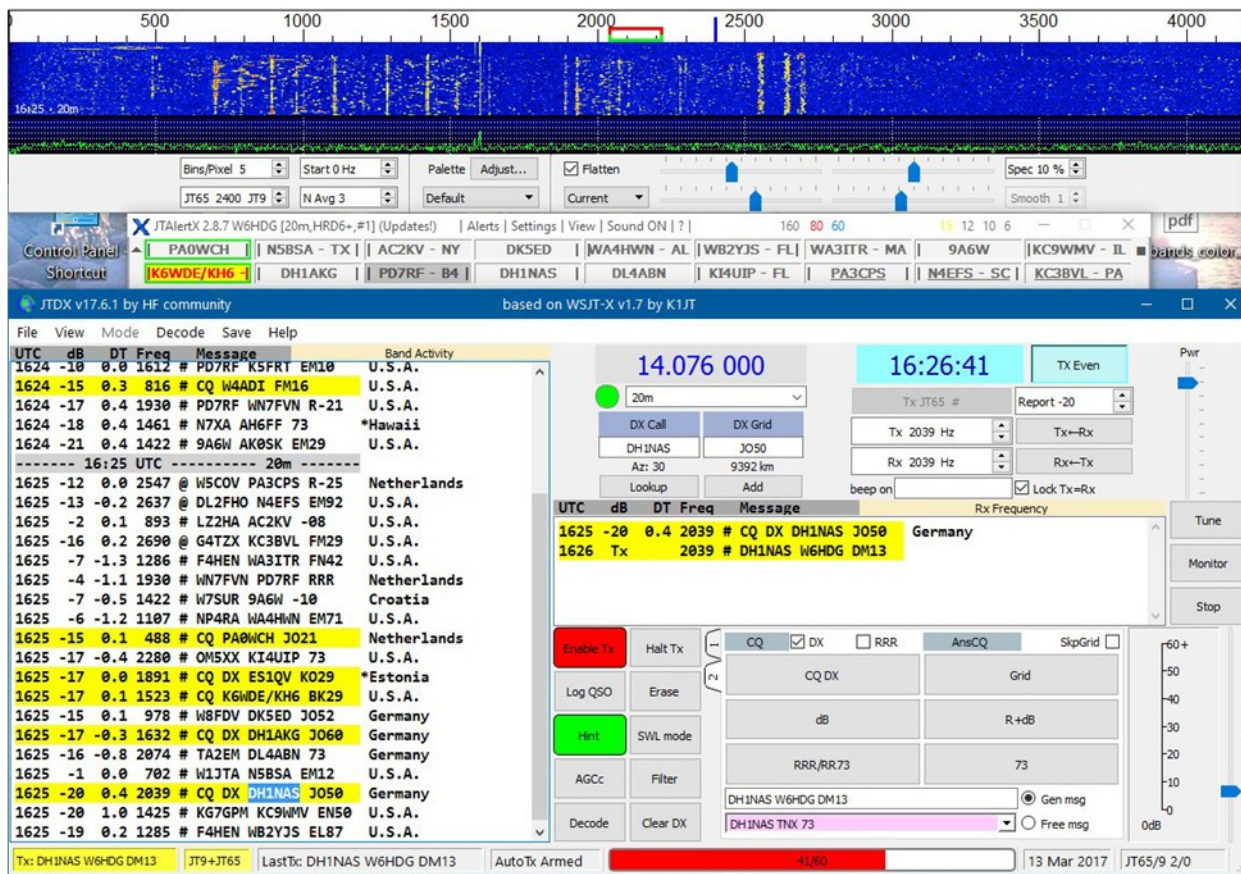
JTDX is installed in its own folder, so you don't need to touch your WSJT-x install and can still switch back and forth if desired. This helps in carrying over your preferred settings. There is one extra install step if you are using JTAAlert. You need to reinstall JTAAlert and choose both the "WSJT-x and the JTDX icons" in the "make icons" install step. This adds a /jtdx switch in the startup icon properties. BTW I use JTAAlert 2.8.7 since this was the last build which supports automatic logging to HRD Logbook.

And here is a word about overmodulation in JT65. To transmit my cleanest signals in JT modes, I make sure I have zero ALC deflection.



This does not limit power output if you adjust until you make the ALC deflection just disappear. Adjustment is made in the TX Audio driver level. Right click in Windows on the speaker icon, go to Playback Devices, double click on your TX audio codec or device and then click on "Levels". The PWR slider in JT programs also regulates audio levels, so adjust that too for the tiniest ALC deflection, and then back off slightly.

Is ham radio becoming a computer person's game? I think our DX Club might be divided on this question. I know that I am far better at computers than CW operation (got called a LID again yesterday when I accidentally went to an inverse split calling Ghana before realizing my error) – so I guess we all have our strengths.



Shown above is the software decoding 16 JT65 and 3 JT9 signals

Howard, W6HDG

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS



Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2017

At 6:16 pm Howard called the meeting to order. 38 members and three guests were in attendance. The 1st guest was Bruce Thompson, N7TY. The 2nd guest was Kurt Barnhart, N6MD. The 3rd guest was Patrick Briggs, KK6ZM.

Old business – the January meeting minutes and Treasurer's report were approved.

New business – We voted on and approved new members Maureen Charette, W8QR and Bruce Thompson, N7TY. Maureen is Art Charette's wife. We voted to waive the two-meeting rule since they live in Colorado. Bruce was a member of our club from 2004 to 2010.

Howard asked for a volunteer to be the new membership chairman and Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI stepped up and agreed to take on that role. One of the goals of this new position is to recruit younger folks into the amateur radio hobby. Another idea Howard presented was to see if there was a way to identify local hams from spotting network reports. We could let those hams know about our club.

At 6:40 we started our roundtable discussions. A topic I mentioned was the extremely high level of RFI generated from solar power systems built by SolarEdge. The ARRL can help you file a complaint with the FCC to shut those systems down until they fix them.

After the break, at 7:26, John Vissat, NA6L, gave a presentation on his participation in the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program.

At 8:08 the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for February \$470 (membership renewal for 1, 2 or 3 years)

Expenses for January – none.

Statement Balance on 1/23/2017 \$8,981.98

Randy, KQ6RS



VP Report

Mike, NA6MB

This month, I am once more reporting from XE2 land; our Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico QTH.

WX is beautiful with temps warming up and getting to 90 in the day and mid to low 70s at night.

The ocean water is really nice, but swimming is still too chilly for me. At least it isn't like New York snow !

Sounds like the ARRL DX SSB contest was fun last weekend. I could hear the action, but can't participate from here in XE2. Impossible to get a license as the IFT is reorganizing, rewriting all of the rules and not issuing ANY licenses. Not even renewals for Mexico hams! Too bad it isn't "reciprocal" in fact as it is in name.

Recap of February Program

NPOTA (National Parks On The Air)

by John Vissat NA6L



John NA6L, spoke about his summer travels activating MANY national parks and monuments.

John activated 177 park units making him the 18th on the NPOTA activator leader board.

He is also 196th on the chaser leader board.

Although I missed the presentation, I understand John told the club about the fun he had and the challenges he encountered along the way. Thanks John!

March Program

INDEXA Chairman of the Board

by Ralph Fedor, M.D. KØIR

Ralph has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1961 and has been

active almost continuously, beginning with CW traffic nets in the 1960's, but ultimately finding his passion in contesting, DXing, and DXpeditions.

Ralph is a retired board certified diagnostic radiologist and is married with four grown children and ten grandchildren. He and his wife, Saundy, live near Waite Park, MN. He is a life member of the ARRL and a member of the Minnesota Wireless Association, the Twin City DX Association, the Southeastern DX Club, the Northern California DX Foundation, INDEXA, and the St. Cloud Radio Club.



His DXpeditions have taken him to some of the most remote places on earth. He has crossed the Equator 14 times and traveled in everything from zodiacs to Russian icebreakers and helicopters. He has visited places like Peter the First, the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia Island, the Falkland Islands, Antarctica, Saba, Malpelo, Bhutan, Desecheo, Heard Island, Easter Island, Reunion, Kerguelen Island, Deception Island, the South Shetland Islands, the South Orkney Islands, Navassa Island, Amsterdam Island and multiple countries in between. He has given presentations in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, New Zealand and throughout the U.S. His DXpedition videos on YouTube have been viewed over 35,000 times, his Google Earth images have had over one million views, and he and his DXpedition team members have made over 4.6 million DXpedition QSO's. Ralph is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the International DX Association. He holds eleven DXpedition of the Year awards and is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

In his presentation to the San Diego DX Club, Ralph will give us a little insight into what he has gleaned from his past DXpeditions and share some images and experiences from some of the world's most remote places.

With this as a background, Ralph will take us inside the plans for a DXpedition to Bouvet in early 2018. He will discuss the challenges Bouvet presents, the logistics of an operation there, and what we on the west coast are likely to observe as the DXpedition unfolds

73 and good DX

Mike, NA6MB

SDDXC RESULTS 2016 CQ WPX CW DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO HP	NO6T (N5ZO)	3,875,344	2,149	776	#1 W6, #22 NA
SO LP (T)	KI6RRN	1,001,832	1,033	494	#1 W6, #2 US, #5 NA
SO LP	WN6K	547,382	790	358	#5 W6
SA LP	W6JBR	19,588	106	83	
Checklog	W6YA				

John, K6AM

SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10 METERS

2/17	2/16	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	341	-
2.	2.	NØRR	40	327	328	338	-
3.	3.	K6AM	40	319	326	331	+1
4.	4.	N6CW	40	?	297	325	-
5.	5.	W6YI	40	306	313	320	-
6.	7.	K6XT	40	290	298	311	+15
7.	6.	W6YOO	40	291	297	297	-
8.	8.	KØXB	40	283	289	296	-
9.	9	WN6K	40	257	263	288	-
10.	-	K6ZH	40	268	275	287	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40 METERS

2/17	2/16	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	336	349	349	+1
2.	2.	K6XT	40	334	347	349	+2
3.	3.	NØRR	40	334	347	347	-
4.	4.	K6AM	40	329	335	338	-
5.	5.	W6YI	40	331	336	337	+5
6.	6.	N6CW	40	?	302	332	-
7.	7.	N7CW	40	320	320	329	-
8.	8.	K6ZH	39	290	296	305	+2
9.	9.	WN6K	40	236	241	276	+3
10.	10.	W6YOO		251	255	255	+3

With 10 in the dumper, most of the action turns to 40 meters this time. It continues to be productive yielding a few new ones for a lot of you active players. Our February champ, Jim, W6YA barely holds on to the top spot, tying with K6XT who is in second only due to fewer QSL's.

Each month, we will publish Top Ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2015

Congratulations to our new 2016 ROTY, new member, Randy Standke, KQ6RS. Randy worked 102 new ones in 2016 as of Nov 29. This is one of the biggest one year jumps we have ever seen.

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 80 METERS

3/17	3/16	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	K6XT	40	300	309	311	+9
2.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	306	+1
3.	3.	K6NA	40	?	?	292	-
4.	4.	W6YI	40	282	287	291	+4
5.	5.	K6AM	40	241	244	252	-
6.	6.	N7CW	40	227	227	247	-
7.	7.	N6CW	40	?	211	235	-
8.	8.	KØXB	37	179	182	188	-
9.	9.	K6ZH	32	161	165	168	+5
10.	10	W6YOO	31	159	162	162	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 20 METERS

3/17	3/16	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	339	379	379	-
2.	2.	N6CW	40	?	360	368	-
3.	3.	W6YI	40	338	357	357	+1
4.	4.	K6AM	40	339	348	348	-
5.	5.	K9RHY	40	336	347	347	-
6.	7.	K5OA	40	327	345	347	-
7.	6.	K6XT	40	334	346	346	-1
8.	8.	W6YOO	40	337	345	345	-
9.	9.	K6ZH	40	334	343	343	-1
10.	10.	KØXB	40	333	343	343	-

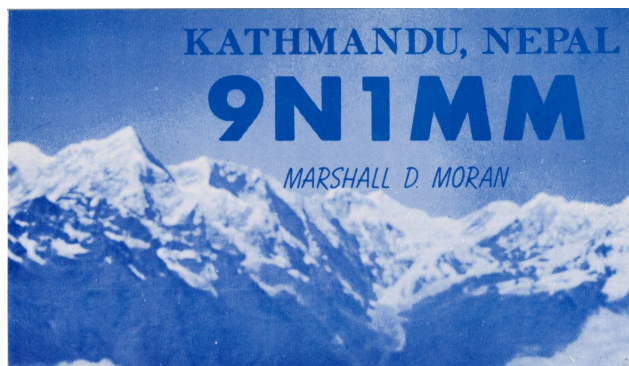
Art, K6XT comes out of nowhere to pull out in front of Jim, W6YA at number one on 80 with nine new ones, while the rest of the top ten holds steady. The lineup on 20 remains stable this year as most everyone has work almost all of them.

Each month, we will publish Top Ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 15 meters, and the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY

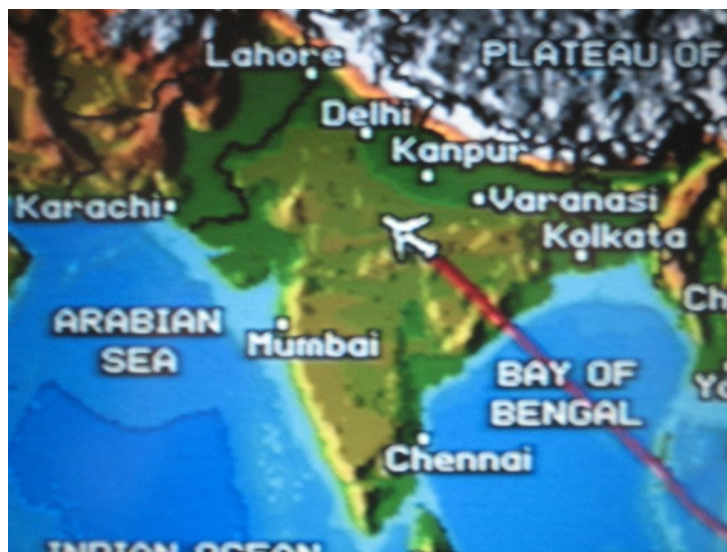


Before I retired, my job as VP of Worldwide Sales for Overland Storage (now a subsidiary of Sphere3D) required a lot of travel. Thanks to Boeing (United Airlines) and their Star Alliance (especially Singapore Airlines) and Airbus, I accumulated almost two million “real” frequent flyer miles (the “butt in the seat” variety,

not points accumulated by buying stuff). I went to Singapore (about 14,300 km from San Diego) often as well as London, Paris, Munich, Sydney, Auckland and many other destinations.

Being driven to the verge of distraction with telephones and emails, I looked forward to being as far away as possible from my office in San Diego. That place is in the Himalaya Mountains (about 13,000 km away). That is what we DXers call DX.

I tell you this because I frequently flew directly from Singapore to London (and vice versa), a trip of about 11,000 km. On one of my trips I took a picture of the in-flight map while flying over India and Bangladesh (see adjoining picture). Almost directly north of a line drawn between Varanasi and Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), in the foothills of the Himalaya Mountains, lies Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. And that is where this short story takes place.



Father Marshall Moran, 9N1MM, was Nepal's first and (for many years) only, amateur-radio operator. He practically single handedly knocked Nepal off the Most Wanted Countries list, while running a missionary school for several hundred young boys.

Early Years

Father Moran was born on May 29, 1906. He became interested in radio in 1918, at the tender age of age 12 while in high school. He built crystal radios and 5-10-Watt spark transmitters from information in the Handbook.

About four years later, Marshall moved with his family to Chicago. At the age of 16 Marshall joined the Jesuit Seminary in Saint Louis, MO. There he studied languages and earned his master's and doctorate degrees.

India

After graduation, Father Moran headed for India where he taught school and provided needed medical care for more than 20 years. It was there in India that Father Moran's interest in radio resurfaced.

Father Moran was fascinated by the U.S. radio communication capabilities in India during World War II. He was particularly intrigued by the Hallicrafters SX28. When the war ended, he went shopping for supplies for his school. The shopping list of war surplus equipment included a Hallicrafters SX28.

His first ham SWL using the SX28 was W4QPI in TN.

Nepal

In 1951, Father Moran moved to Nepal. He found a site for his school in a mountain retreat once used by the Prime Minister of Nepal, but unoccupied at the time. Located in Godawari, near the city of Kathmandu nestled at the foot of the 8848 m (29,029 ft) Mount Everest in the Himalaya Mountains, he founded the St. Xavier School for Boys with a swimming pool, gymnasium, dining room, library, and dormitories for 260 boys.



When he first arrived in Nepal, Father Moran did not raise the issue of amateur radio with the authorities. He didn't want the government to think he was some sort of agent (think about the story of AC4YN) so he stayed away from licensing (like he did in the early days).

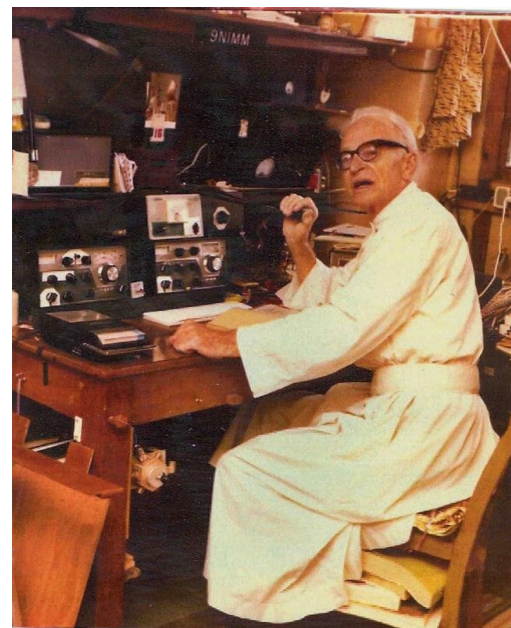
In 1960, a group of American engineers arrived in Nepal to set up a telephone and telecommunications system for the Nepalese government. As part of the

contract to set up the network, each engineer (all hams, obviously) requested amateur-radio licenses and call signs. Father Moran added his name to the list of licensees. So Sam Maso, 9N1SM, Tom Bell, 9N1TB, Fred Vocal, 9N1FV and Father Marshall Moran, 9N1MM were now fully licensed and legit. 9N1MM received license #1



In his first 25 years of operation, 9N1MM made more than 250,000 QSOs and sent out more than 60,000 9N1MM QSL cards, knocking Nepal off the Top Ten Most Wanted list.

9N1MM was elected to membership in the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2002.



My 9N1MM Experiences

Father Moran's brother had moved from Chicago to Lake Forest, IL a suburb of Chicago and adjacent to my QTH in Libertyville, IL. During one of my earliest QSOs with 9N1MM on September 26, 1989, Father Moran asked me if I could make a telephone call to his brother. Of course I complied. A few weeks later 9N1MM called me as I finished a QSO and asked if I could set up a phone patch with his brother. After that, I guess I ran a half-dozen patches between 9N1MM and his brother.

9N1MM accepted an invitation to join us at a Northern Illinois DX Association (NIDXA) meeting in a Chicago suburb. Some pictures commemorating that visit are below.



Our meeting in the U.S. happened as Father Moran was getting late in his life. 9N1MM became a Silent Key on April 14, 1992. I won't forget this wonderful person and world-class DXer.



Bob, K9RHY